

**Exhibit 6455c, DEPARTMENT POLICY IN INMATE DEATH
(LETTER FROM DR. KHOURY) (6400)**

(June 2000)

State of California

Department of Correction

Memorandum

Date : August 23, 1991

To : Chief Medical Officers

Subject: Departmental Policy in Inmate Deaths

It is the policy of the California Department of Corrections that all inmate deaths shall be regarded as coroner's cases. The county coroner in each jurisdiction has, therefore, the responsibility for deciding whether or not an inmate's death is the result of natural causes, acute illness, accidental trauma or foul play. The coroner also has the responsibility of deciding whether or not to perform an autopsy in each case.

Some coroner's offices have adopted a policy of not performing autopsies on known HIV-positive inmates unless there is clear evidence of foul play.

The Department of Corrections would much prefer that autopsies were done in as many inmate deaths as possible, especially in cases, regardless of underlying disease, where the death was not anticipated, i.e., where the patient had not previously been declared to be seriously or terminally ill.

Please contact the local county coroner and all contract pathologists, in writing, advising them of the Department's wishes in this matter.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dr. Greenough at (916) (324-0876 or ATSS 454-0876.

Nadim Khoury
NADIM KHOURY, M.D.
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Health Care Services

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